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James Maxwell, Esq.,
Branch Mint,
New-Orleans.

Express Mail.

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May 7/39
filed June 20. 1839

Director's & Copy
of Edw. Tunstall's lett.
by Mr. Mayweld

Mint of the United States,
May 7th, 1839.

Sir,

Your letter of the 24th of April, though sent by the Express Mail, was not received till yesterday. The circumstances which you detail, respecting the missing deposite, are very suspicious, and have given me great uneasiness. The course which it has seemed to me proper to take in the case has been, first to lay the whole matter before the Secretary of the Treasury, and secondly to ask a full explanation of it from the Superintendent of your Mint. In a matter of such delicacy, deeply involving personal character, nothing ought to be done until both parties are heard. No further steps, therefore, can be taken until I receive the report which I have asked from Mr. Bradford.

There is a remark at the close of your letter, with regard to which I must beg for an explanation. You say you are confident that the Treasurer has not opened any account for you, and that though you have asked twenty times for a settlement, you have always been put off; also that no warrant has passed between you and the Treasurer since August last.

Now I wrote to Mr. Bradford, on the 5th of February, on the subject of a similar complaint made by you in a letter of Jan. 24th, and inquiries were made by him of the Treasurer, to which replies were made which seemed to me satisfactory, but which appear to be inconsistent with the remarks in your late letter. I send subjoined a Copy of Mr. Forstall's communication, and beg that you will explain to me the cause of the very different accounts which you and he present.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/
James Maxwell, Esq.,
Melter & Refiner,
Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

(Copy)

"United States Br. Mint
at New Orleans,
Treasurers Office, 16th February, 1839.

"Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of a written communication from you, in which you request me to state in writing

1. Whether an Annual Settlement of Accounts has been made this year between the Treasurer and Melter & Refiner?

2. Whether the same was satisfactory or not?

3. Whether the Warrants between the Melter & Refiner and the Treasurer, have been made up from the Statements of the former alone, or from what source?

4. What is the State of Accounts in this office_ what ones, if any, have not yet been opened?

5. Particularly whether the Bullion Account

between the Melter & Refiner and the Treasurer has been opened?

6. Generally the condition of the Office.

7. That the above inquiries are to be considered as made also in relation to the accounts and transactions between the Treasurer & Coiner – and to answer you at the earliest convenience.

1. The Annual Settlement of accounts with the Melter & Refiner was made on the 22d Jan'y last.

2. I have no reason to believe that said Settlement was otherwise than satisfactory, as it has received the signature of both parties.

3. I am not aware that any Warrants have been drawn up from the Statements of the Melter & Refiner alone, but the Accounts have been compared before full settlement.

4. There is no irregularity or confusion in th Accounts in this office. The only point itted is the transfer from the Journal to he Ledger, which transfer has not been made in consequence of the ruling of the Ledger not according with the Specimens received from Philadelphia, and your request that the entries should not be made until the arrival of Mr. Spofford, who, however, avowed himself unable to clear up the difficulty.

5. The bullion Account between the Treasurer & Melter & Refiner has been opened & regularly kept, the transfers to the Ledger have not been made for the reasons just stated.

6. There is no irregularity in the Accounts, or vouchers, or books in this office.

7. The foregoing replies to your inquiries relative to the transaction of business with the Melter & Refiner, and the State of Accounts are equally applicable to those with the Coiner."

Respectfully,

(Signed) Edm. Forstall,
Treas. Br. Mint."

To/ David Bradford, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint.